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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 2, 2006

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**Nampa Mental Health Clinic Owners, Employee  
Sentenced in Federal Court for Medicaid Fraud**

Two former owners of Life Springs Mental Health, LLC, a Nampa clinic that provided mental health services to Medicaid participants, were each sentenced in U.S. District Court on October 27 to five months in prison, followed by five months of community confinement, and each ordered to pay \$111,259.72 in restitution for submitting fraudulent Medicaid billings.

Art Dearing was convicted of 32 felony counts of health care fraud, aiding and abetting in connection with fraudulent billings between December 12, 2001, and September 20, 2003. His brother, Roger Dearing, pleaded guilty to one felony count of executing a scheme to defraud the government. Mike Adamson, an employee of Life Springs, pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of embezzlement from a health care benefit program and was sentenced to three years probation and ordered to pay \$2,418.07 in restitution.

The crimes occurred when fraudulent billings were submitted to Medicaid for mental health services while clients were actually at doctor appointments, working, sleeping or running personal errands. The clinic also billed for services provided by unlicensed staff, and activities outside the clinic that are not covered by Medicaid, such as bowling, going to movies, camping, fishing, attending state and local fairs, sight-seeing trips, and berry/pumpkin picking.

**(more)**

In addition, as much as one hour per day for each of 20 clients was billed for documenting charts when that task is included in the billable unit rate for partial care services. Life Springs also failed to have the required treatment plans signed by physicians, and continued to submit fraudulent billings after being warned such activities were not reimbursable.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare investigates Medicaid provider fraud. “It’s important to protect taxpayer dollars from abuse so the funding is there for the vulnerable people who really need the services,” says Mond Warren, Bureau Chief of Audits and Investigations. “To report suspected fraud, please call the unit at (208) 334-5754.”

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**(Editors: For more information please contact Ross Mason, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Public Information Officer, 208-334-0693)**